

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 65

Introduced by Senator Liu

February 13, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 65—Relative to Pain Awareness Month and Women In Pain Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 65, as amended, Liu. Pain Awareness Month and Women In Pain Awareness Day.

This measure would recognize September 2012 as Pain Awareness Month and call upon all Californians to observe that month by learning how to improve the quality of life of Californians suffering from pain. This measure would also recognize September 14, 2012, as Women In Pain Awareness Day to draw public attention to gender disparity in pain assessment and treatment in the United States.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, ~~More~~ *Approximately more* than ~~44~~ *100* million
2 Americans live with chronic pain caused by various diseases or
3 disorders, and, each year, nearly 25 million Americans suffer with
4 acute pain; and
5 WHEREAS, Though medical knowledge and technology exist
6 to relieve or greatly ease pain, most pain is untreated, undertreated,
7 or improperly treated, and many health care professionals are still
8 unaware of how to effectively treat pain; and
9 WHEREAS, People who suffer from chronic pain often are
10 stigmatized and marginalized and often are not informed about
11 the right to effective pain assessment and management, and most

1 people with pain, including those at the end of life, get little or no
2 relief; and

3 WHEREAS, Women have a higher prevalence than men of
4 chronic pain syndromes and diseases associated with chronic pain,
5 such as fibromyalgia, complex pain syndrome, or osteoarthritis,
6 and women respond differently to certain analgesics; and

7 WHEREAS, Women's pain reports are taken less seriously than
8 those of men, and women receive less aggressive treatment than
9 men for their pain; and

10 WHEREAS, Women have developed a number of coping
11 mechanisms to deal with pain, and this may contribute to a general
12 perception that they can endure more pain and that their pain does
13 not need to be taken as seriously; and

14 WHEREAS, Women more frequently report pain to a health
15 care provider, but are more likely to have their pain reports
16 discounted as emotional or psychogenic and, therefore, not real;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The California-based Partners for Understanding
19 Pain is a growing coalition of pain sufferers, physicians, nurses,
20 social workers, pharmacists, therapists, civic leaders, nonprofit
21 organizations, and health care businesses whose mission is to
22 improve the quality of life for people in California experiencing
23 pain; and

24 WHEREAS, It is the collective mission of this movement to
25 provide practical information for people with pain, inform health
26 care professionals about pain management, and serve as an
27 advocate for people experiencing pain; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of
30 September 2012 as Pain Awareness Month, and calls upon all
31 Californians to observe this month by participating in appropriate
32 ceremonies and activities, and by learning how to improve the
33 quality of life for people in California suffering from pain; and be
34 it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes September 14, 2012,
36 as Women In Pain Awareness Day to draw public attention to the
37 important need to raise awareness concerning gender disparity in
38 pain assessment and treatment in the United States; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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